

11 July 1974

Hospital Administrator Resigns Cites Conflict With Board Action

Wasatch County Hospital Receives \$10,000 Grant

The Wasatch County Hospital has been given approval to receive a state grant of \$10,000 for purchase of a new four-wheel drive ambulance. The grant is part of a state-wide funding project by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Funds totaling \$643,974 will be distributed to several communities in the state from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to the Utah State Division of Health for improved emergency medical services.

The grant will provide training opportunities for 480 ambulance personnel from throughout the state, and training operations will also be made available for 20 paramedics and implementation of an Emergency Room Nurse Training Program to be conducted through the University College of Nurses.

Twenty-one cities will receive \$10,000 each toward the purchase of new ambulances. Heber City will receive these funds, as well as Park City, Provo, Orem and Salt Lake County. Other rural hospitals to receive ambulance funds are Spanish Fork, Springville, Nephi, Payson and Pleasant Grove.

Wasatch County Hospital Administrator Terry W. Lange noted that the new ambulance, which hopefully will be delivered in 60-90 days, will provide the hospital a greater ability to meet the emergency needs of the county.

He also revealed plans for an Emergency Medical Technician training program being organized for this area. It is hoped that the training programs will begin soon, with local physicians and medical specialists aiding in the teaching.

The grant funds are on a county match basis and the Wa-

satch County Commission has approved a \$6,000 outlay toward purchase of the ambulance. Estimated cost of the new ambulance will be \$16,000 or less, according to the administrator.

Other requirements which the county hospital must meet in order to receive the grant are that the ambulance must meet federal standards, mainly that it be mounted on a truck chassis

and that the ambulance contain life-saving equipment. Another requirement is that the hospital be staffed sufficiently by July 1, 1975 to provide two trained Emergency Medical Technicians on every ambulance run.

At present, Wasatch County Hospital has two trained emergency technicians, Mike Wright and Mr. Lange are both qualified as emergency technicians.

Norman C. Davis, Wasatch County Hospital Administrator acknowledged in an inquiry this week that he had submitted his resignation to the hospital board and would be leaving about August 15th. He cited disillusionment with the hospital board as his reasons for leaving, charging the board with failure to control the medical staff sufficiently to provide first quality care. Mr. Davis joined the staff the first of this year.

The administrator revealed the reason he had given the board for leaving commenting, "I felt they (the board) had evaded a significant responsibility with regard to the control of the medical staff. As a governing board of a hospital, they are charged with the responsibility for the quality of care that is delivered in the community. My feeling is that they have not met that responsibility."

Mr. Davis declined to cite a particular example, but was apparently referring to the outcome of private hearings recently held by the hospital board. The executive sessions began on May 30th and continued for about two weeks ending with a formal private hearing.

Harold H. Smith, hospital board chairman and Wasatch County Commissioner, admitted that the board had received Mr. Davis' resignation, but no formal action had been taken on accepting the resignation. They are, however, interviewing new applicants for the position. He stressed that the board had not requested his resignation and admitted that they were pleased with the many new innovations which had come to the hospital under Mr. Davis' tenure.

Commissioner Smith also acknowledged that the board had held a series of private hearings over a long period of time, adding that a decision on disciplinary action was made by the board, only after long hours of deliberation. "The well-being and safety of the community was utmost in the minds of the board

members, and on hours of deliberation the board make what was a sound decision thoughtfully.

The hospital has changes during the months. Specialists added to the staff Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory Technologist, Emergency Room was also recently the ambulance a life-saving equipment purchased for the ambulance.

Several thousand worth of technical has been added to including a heart utilized in surgery department, photometer, a and a fibrometer assesses the blood of a patient. The Department also important pieces used in evaluating breathing problem.

The hospital was added as a Medical Care Facility and two new physicians added to the staff.

We all welcome the new administrator Terry W. Lange. Also the new officers of the Park County Auxiliary for the year 1974-1975.

*Jean Montgomery
Historian from
Aug 1973 to May
of 1974.*